



News Release

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360-236-4072
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State revokes, suspends licenses, certifications, registrations of health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has revoked or suspended the licenses, certifications, or registrations of health care providers in our state. The department has also immediately suspended the credentials of people who have been prohibited from practicing in other states.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency's website. Click on "[Look up a health care provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health home page](#) (www.doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

King County

In August 2014 the secretary of health indefinitely suspended the credential of chemical dependency professional trainee **David Jacob Kost** (CO60393637). An earlier agreement with Kost required that he obtain a chemical dependency evaluation from Washington Health Professional Services and comply with all aspects of that program. He did not comply.

In June 2014 the secretary of health suspended the credential of certified nursing assistant **Tara Kay Nelson** (NC60258412) after she used a debit card belonging to a patient in her care without permission. She was charged with second degree theft with aggravating circumstances.

In August 2014 the secretary of health indefinitely suspended the credential of agency affiliated counselor **Randolph Kelly Noone** (CG60227184) after he didn't comply with an earlier order requiring him to enter into a monitoring program.

In August 2014 the secretary of health immediately suspended registered nursing assistant **Anthony J. Tipton** (NA00186387) after he allegedly failed to communicate the seriousness of, or seek medical attention for pressure sores on a patient in his care. The Department of Social and Health Services found that he had neglected a vulnerable adult in his care. Tipton is not allowed to be employed in the care of or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

Pierce County

In August 2014 the Pharmacy Commission suspended the credential of pharmacy assistant/pharmacy technician **Alisa Nicole Ring** (VB.00058422 and VA60337972) for at least 20 years after she was found to have used a prescription pad stolen from a physician. Over the course of about four months she repeatedly and illegally obtained and distributed or helped others illegally obtain and distribute almost 500 tablets of oxycodone. Ring admitted the fraudulent prescriptions to the pharmacy's loss prevention officer and refused to cooperate with Department of Health investigators.

In August 2014 the secretary of health immediately suspended the credential of registered nursing assistant **Chris A. Vargas** (NA00138566) after the Department of Social and Health Services determined Vargas neglected a vulnerable adult. Charges state that Vargas walked off the job without notifying his employer, leaving a vulnerable adult alone. Vargas is prohibited him from being employed where he has unsupervised access to or cares for vulnerable adults.

Lincoln County

In August 2014 the secretary of health accepted the surrendered credential of certified nursing assistant **Daniel R. Abell** (NC10080241). In May 2014, Abell pled guilty to two counts of first degree child molestation, Class A felonies. In his plea, Abell admitted to having sexual contact with two minors.

Snohomish County

In August 2014 the secretary of health immediately suspended the credential of certified nursing assistant and agency affiliated counselor **Lamin Kemo Darboe** (NC10062941, CG60114241) after the Department of Social and Health Services issued a final finding that Darboe abused a vulnerable adult.

In July 2014 the secretary of health suspended the credential of agency affiliated counselor and certified counselor **Fredrick Thomas Bletson, Jr.** (CG60146249, CL60152626) for at least 10 years after he was found guilty on 10 counts of misappropriation of accounts by a public officer, a class B felony.

In July 2014 the secretary of health suspended for at least three years the credential of registered nursing assistant **Mary E. Lebihan** (NA60024024) after she abused vulnerable adults in her care.

In July 2014 the Nursing Commission suspended the credential of licensed practical nurse **Nigussu H. Mitike** (LP60048392) for at least three years. The suspension comes after the Department of Social and Health Services issued an order prohibiting Mitike from being employed in the care of or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults after a patient under Mitike's care wandered off in at least two occasions.

In July 2014 the secretary of health accepted the surrendered credential of certified nursing assistant **Sharron C. Nelson** (NC10101962) due to an inability to practice with reasonable skill and safety due to a mental or physical condition.

In August 2014 the secretary of health indefinitely suspended the credential of registered nursing assistant **Joan Rinney Tuwaidan** (NA00149128) after the Department of Social and Health Services issued a finding that prohibits her from being employed in the care of and having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults. Tuwaidan didn't ensure a front door alarm was on at an adult family home where she worked. A resident got out, was seriously hurt, with the injuries leading to the resident's death.

In July 2014 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the credential of registered nurse **Tanna N. Vigue-Dry** (RN00155709) after her license to practice as a registered nurse in Texas was suspended.

In August 2014 the secretary of health entered a cease and desist order to **Adrienne Kawamura**, who offered scaling of cats' teeth at her cat-grooming salon. This order prohibits Kawamura from engaging in any and all conduct constituting the practice of veterinary medicine, surgery, and dentistry in Washington unless she first obtains the required health care credential. Under Washington law, scaling cats' teeth is considered practicing veterinary dentistry and Kawamura was doing so without a valid credential. She will stop offering this service and pay a fine in the amount of \$250.00.

Spokane County

In July 2014 the secretary of health ordered **James J. Byrnes** to permanently cease and desist from engaging in any and all conduct constituting practice as a physician in Washington. He must also pay a \$3000.00 fine. Although Byrnes does not have a license to practice as a physician, he performed tuberculin sensitivity tests on three students of CNA Schools NW in Spokane.

In July 2014 the secretary of health immediately suspended the credential of certified nursing assistant **Daniel T. Cyrus** (NC10093171) after the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) found that he had abused a vulnerable adult. DSHS prohibited Cyrus from being employed in the care of and having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

In July 2014 the Pharmacy Commission suspended for at least one year the credential of pharmacy technician **Patrick D. Doyle** (VA60030783) for diverting various strengths of controlled substances including hydrocodone from his employer, Yokes Pharmacy.

In July 2014 the secretary of health immediately suspended the credential for registered nursing assistant **Stephen Thomas Evert** (NA60217184) pending further legal action. Evert is accused of verbally and mentally abusing two vulnerable adults at an adult family home where he was a co-owner; and forcing another resident who was legally blind to be in charge of her own medications, telling her he hoped she'd overdose and abandoning her at an emergency room. He is also charged with publishing confidential patient information on the adult family home's website and failing to ensure an employee received a two-step tuberculosis skin test as required by law.

Thurston County

In June 2014 the secretary of health indefinitely suspended the credential of registered nursing assistant **Nancy L. Brink** (NA00169619). The Department of Social and Health Services found that Brink, while owner of an adult family home, drank while on duty and neglected a resident in her care who also consumed alcohol. The resident fell, suffering a brain injury and later dying. Brink is now prohibited from being employed in the care of and having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

In July the secretary of health indefinitely suspended the credential of agency affiliated counselor **James McLeod Huntsman** (CG60427841) because he didn't comply with the terms of an order to comply with a monitoring contract. Huntsman tested positive for marijuana and withdrew from the monitoring program he was enrolled in.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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